

needs to be a complete withdrawal of these services in order for there to be a free election . . .” Under strong U.S. and United Nations pressure, Syria did remove its troops and a free and fair election was held.

The pressures on Iraqi voters were enormous. In the streets were 168,000 heavily armed American soldiers, 250,000 Iraqi troops and perhaps 100,000 Iraqi police. The survival value of the blue stain on the index finger was apparent to all, as was the voter's name at the polling place. They could be insurance against being picked up on suspicion of being insurgents and then languishing in Abu Graib. Or they could be protection from the armed Kurdish and Shiite militias roaming the cities in search of dissident Sunnis.

In addition, leaders of the various tribal groups urged their minions to vote their slates, in order to attain local power for the coming struggle, widely expected once the occupying Americans depart. And anyway, who will count the votes?

The United States as the occupier of Iraq has the power to make elected Iraqis carry out U.S. political decisions. We decided the time and place for elections, vetoed some candidates, approved others and guided the writing of the constitution. The U.S. Ambassador, Zalmay Khalilzad—termed “The Viceroy” around the world—virtually runs Iraq from his fortified embassy with its staff of 5,000 and room for an active CIA.

Here is the real situation: Iraq has a puppet government set up to keep order and to carry out American policies. This is the logical and inevitable result of military conquest. Any election held under such conditions—under the gun—cannot be called free and fair. The Iraqis are simply choosing which of their number will enforce U.S. will and help to crush the inevitable resistance to foreign occupation.

The Iraqis are not really governing themselves and we should not pretend that they are. Authentic Iraqi democracy with free and fair elections can develop only after complete U.S. withdrawal.

PRIORITIES FOR UPCOMING MEETING BETWEEN U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CONDOLEEZZA RICE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS OF CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my wishes for the upcoming meeting to be attended by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and foreign ministers of Caribbean countries in the Bahamas later on this month and to enter into the RECORD a Carib News story reiterating concerns about what priorities should be covered in the meeting to build a stronger U.S.-Caribbean alliance.

Secretary Rice is scheduled to meet with the foreign ministers of Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Antigua, Jamaica, Belize, Suriname, St. Lucia, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Vincent and Barbados March 21–22. This meeting is a prime opportunity for Secretary Rice to pledge U.S. support in the areas of economic and social development. Specifically, meeting participants should focus on crime, disaster preparedness, drug trafficking and immigration. The recently held democratic elections in Haiti of former Presi-

dent René Préval to once again lead the nation will also be an issue needing urgent attention.

As reporter Tony Best explains in the Carib News story, Democrats on the Hill, myself included, insist that Secretary Rice should utilize this opportunity to show Caribbean nations that their development is important and that the United States is a partner in economic and social advancement in Caribbean countries. These nations are in dire need of assistance erecting strong economic and social infrastructures that bear opportunities to their citizens. For example in Haiti, 8 out of 10 Haitians live in abject poverty. Unemployment exceeds 70 percent while the country has a 10 percent HIV infection rate in the city and 4 percent in rural areas. More must be done for these countries.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you'll join me conveying to Secretary Rice the urgency of economic and social issues in the Caribbean and that she be mindful of the plight of Caribbean citizens during her upcoming meeting.

[From the Carib News, Feb. 28, 2006]

DEMOCRATS ON CAPITOL HILL: U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE SHOULD SHOW CARIBBEAN NATIONS THAT THEIR DEVELOPMENT IS IMPORTANT

(By Tony Best)

“A partner in economic and social development in Caribbean nations.” That's the message, which some Democrats on Capitol Hill in Washington are hoping U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, would convey to Caricom foreign ministers when they meet in the Bahamas later this month.

And the message shouldn't be just in word, lip service, if you will, but in concrete measures, which can help the Caribbean.

So said U.S. Congressman Eliot Engel, a New York Democrat who represents thousands of Caribbean immigrants in the Bronx and Westchester County. He is the ranking Democrat on the Western Hemisphere subcommittee of the House of Representatives.

“I think she needs to tell the Caribbean foreign ministers that the United States wants to be a partner, a close working partner and to have a close working relationships with the nations which are our close neighbors,” was the way he put it to the Nation after addressing the 27th Congressional Breakfast of the Jewish Community Relations Council, JCRC, at the 92nd Street Y in Manhattan.

“It is one thing for us as a nation to pursue goals all over the world, Iraq and wherever,” he added. “But it is quite another thing for us to say that we need to concentrate on what we do back home. I think we can do both, but I don't think we should neglect the people who are geographically closest to us,” meaning inhabitants of Caribbean nations. Rice is scheduled to meet with the foreign ministers of Barbados, the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Antigua, Jamaica, Belize, Suriname, St. Lucia, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Vincent and Belize on March 21–22. Economic and social question as well as security issues in the “broadest sense, and not simply matters about fighting terrorism” should top the agenda, say diplomatic and other highly placed sources in Washington. Immigration, Haiti, drug trafficking and crime, HIV/AIDS and disaster preparedness and reconstruction are expected to dominate the meeting's agenda.

Congressman Charles Rangel, who like Engel, addressed the Congressional Breakfast, had previously said in a Carib News interview that the Bush Administration should work with Caribbean nations to develop an effective strategy that would help

the various countries improve their economic performance and boost their infrastructure.

“These are sovereign states with a long tradition of respect for the rule of law and adherence to principles of parliamentary democracy,” he said. “We should treat them with the respect they deserve. They aren't colonial territories that can be pushed around or ignored to suit our every whim. Many in the Administration didn't like their position on Iraq and even went so far as to threaten them. It's time that the Bush White House recognize that the Caribbean countries, including those in Caricom, are among our closest neighbors and remain our strong allies. We must treat them as friends and not try to punish them if they disagree with us from time to time.”

In his address to the breakfast, which was attended by scores of Jewish community leaders, senior diplomatic and consular officials from the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, Asia, Israel and other nations, Rangel spoke about the need to respect the U.S. constitution and the rights to privacy “of our people.” While emphasizing America's commitment to Israel, which was “well-known,” the Representative of Harlem and surrounding communities in Manhattan said that the sons and daughters of Americans who were being killed in Iraq were not the children of members of Congress, corporate America or people in the White House.

Engel said that the upcoming meeting in the Bahamas was important for both the U.S. and the Caricom because it would give Rice a chance to convey a “sense of involvement and engagement of the United States with the Caribbean” countries.

“It's one thing to pay lip-service to it,” added the Bronx Democrat. “It's another to really act. They are many pressing issues, not only immigration, which must be considered. The economy of the Caribbean is one such issue.”

HONORING JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 357, a resolution honoring former United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. As the first female justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, this remarkable woman presided over some of the most important cases of our time, and her accomplishments became a stepping stone for all womankind.

Justice O'Connor has strong roots to the city of El Paso, Texas, which I represent. She attended Radford School, and graduated at the age of 16 from Austin High School. Her achievements in graduating with honors from Stanford University and earning a law degree from the Stanford School of Law in only two years, have encouraged numerous aspiring students to reach their greatest potential.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor once again provided a breakthrough when she became the majority leader for the Arizona State Legislature, the first woman in the Nation to do so.

Rising from the rejection of law firm employment based on her gender, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is now known as one of the most important women in U.S. legal history.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this very worthwhile resolution, honoring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM BOHEN
UPON BEING NAMED "IRISHMAN
OF THE YEAR" BY GOIN' SOUTH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand here today to recognize William Bohen, a man who is being honored as "Irishman of the Year" on March 11, 2006 by Goin' South, a civic, social, and cultural organization based in South Buffalo, New York.

Bill Bohen is an upstanding citizen, a proud member of the South Buffalo community of which I am a lifelong resident. And like me, Bill shares a love for the people and the place that has made us who we are today.

Bill's ancestors came from Ireland and settled in the Old First Ward. His father Daniel Bohen was a Buffalo Firefighter; his late mother was Milly Ahearn.

Bill Bohen began his career as an apprentice in 1975 with Ironworkers Local 6—and he quickly rose through the ranks as a Board Member, Executive Committee President, and to his current position as Business Agent/Financial Secretary.

Ironworkers Local 6 is one of the most influential trade unions in Western New York. Its members participated in the construction of HSBC Arena, Buffalo's Baseball stadium, Pilot Field (now Dunn Tire Park), waterfront housing at Admiral's Walk and the Galleria Mall. It is also important to note that Bill led Local 6 members to New York City to assist with rescue efforts just hours after the tragedy of September 11th.

Bill's kindness is reflected in the generosity of Local 6 and the willingness of its members to pitch in when it comes to charitable and civic causes in and around South Buffalo. They have volunteered on such projects such as the Valley Community Center and Bishop Timon/St. Jude High School.

Irish Americans represent what is best about America—that if you work hard, play by the rules, love your family and give back to your community, the American Dream can be yours. Bill Bohen is a citizen worthy of that description.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to recognize Bill Bohen, a great guy from the neighborhood, a friend and a man deserving of this special recognition. It is my distinct honor to join with Bill's sisters—Nancy and Patty—his brother Danny—his two sons Bill Jr. and Eric and his wife Mary Jo and numerous other family members and friends to honor the personal accomplishments, leadership and hard work of a great son of South Buffalo.

INTRODUCING THE TRADE SANCTION AVOIDANCE ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Trade Sanction Avoidance Act—legislation that will stop American manufacturers from facing \$809 million in annual trade sanctions from the European Union.

On February 12, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Appellate Body—for the third time—found that U.S. corporate tax laws violate WTO rules. We failed to fix the flawed foreign sales corporation (FSC) regime with extra-territorial incentive (ETI) scheme. Now we've failed once again to fix the ETI with incentives in the JOBS Act. According to the WTO, the transitional and grandfathered tax breaks in the JOBS Act continue to violate WTO rules. This foolishness must stop now.

I've heard many members of this august body talk about how the U.S. must stand up and be a leader in the world. How can we expect other countries to take us seriously as a world leader when this Congress continually undermines and ignores rules we've agreed to live by?

We refuse to join the International Criminal Court, we won't sign the Kyoto Treaty, and we pulled out of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. Given our track record, is it any wonder the EU continues to bring WTO cases against our non-compliant corporate tax break schemes? We've broken these rules time and time again, and if we don't pass my bill, American manufacturers will pay the price.

The EU reacted to the WTO decision by asserting its right to impose retaliatory duties against U.S. exports. Those duties apply to a broad range of goods, and could reach 17 percent by September. If Congress fails to act, U.S. corporations will pay \$809 million a year in retaliatory sanctions.

The Trade Sanction Avoidance Act will put an end to this game of international tax chicken. By repealing the transitional and grandfathered tax breaks in the JOBS act, Congress will ensure American manufacturers avoid hundreds of millions in unnecessary trade sanctions. This approach is so inherently reasonable; some may wonder why anyone would oppose it.

Unfortunately, in the current culture of corruption, protecting tax breaks for big corporations is more important than protecting farmers and small manufacturers from hundreds of millions in trade sanctions. For example, Boeing alone stands to rake in over \$600 million from the JOBS Act tax breaks. My legislation protects farmers and small manufacturers from these sanctions so that they can remain competitive in the European Union marketplace. Boeing—which made \$2.56 billion in net profit last year—should be willing to give up at least a portion of its tax break to help protect American businesses from sanctions and to help our tax code comply with the WTO rules we've agreed to live by.

We can't claim to help American businesses on one hand, while turning our backs on them by failing to fix this problem. This bill is a simple solution to a problem we should have solved years ago. I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PORTIA
SIMPSON-MILLER ON HER ELEC-
TION AS PRESIDENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY AND
PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Portia Simpson-Miller, who has been elected president of the People's National Party in Jamaica and will become the first female Prime Minister of Jamaica at the end of the month and to enter into the RECORD an editorial and news story both published in the New York CaribNews hailing her victory.

The election of Ms. Simpson-Miller is a milestone. As the first female Prime Minister Designate, Ms. Simpson-Miller has been a passionate, longtime voice for the oppressed. Her career in politics has spanned three and a half decades most recently as vice president of the PNP since 1978 and president of the PNP Women's Movement since 1983. Her previous assignments also include several Cabinet portfolios—serving as a Minister of Labour, Welfare and Sport and a Minister of Local Government, Community Development and Sport. By serving her people diligently, she has earned the right to succeed Mr. P.J. Patterson, the island's longest serving Prime Minister.

Simpson-Miller represents the vanguard of women succeeding in politics throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, changing the political and social landscapes in places such as Chile and Peru. As she sought to become Prime Minister of Jamaica, Ms. Simpson-Miller's campaign focused on themes of empowerment for the marginalized and uniting all classes to tackle deep-rooted problems of crime and economic underdevelopment.

Simpson-Miller is a Jamaican success story; an iconic figure who has become a metaphor for the hopes and aspirations of poor, underprivileged black people, particularly black women. Her victory has yielded an outpouring of praise from Jamaicans living throughout the world, including in my home city of New York who, as is seen in the following article, hailed and celebrated her victory. She is a woman of faith, conviction and of the people—traits that will surely be needed to effectively address the problems of entrenched poverty and crime and enhance employment opportunities for youth.

Mr. Speaker, again I rise to congratulate Ms. Portia Simpson-Miller as she ascends to the post of Prime Minister in Jamaica and to commend her on her genuine commitment the people of the island.

PORTIA SIMPSON-MILLER HAILED AS NEW
LEADER

(By Tony Best)

If there is something called national euphoria then it best describes the reaction of Jamaicans at home and abroad to the victory of Portia Simpson-Miller in the fight to lead the ruling People's National Party and Jamaica itself.

For in the Caribbean nation, the news that Simpson-Miller had won the vigorous and potentially divisive battle for the PNP's Presidency and the Prime Minister's job triggered an outpouring of praise and celebrations for the victory. In the Diaspora, from New York,